



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Joanne Sturges, Acting Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held March 14, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Children and Family Services' recommendation to approve and authorize the Director to accept and execute, on an ongoing basis, grant renewals for the Supportive Housing Program from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, in an estimated amount of \$2.3 million for a total of ten grants, of which three are currently available totaling \$661,570 for Fiscal Year 2005-06, with County required to provide a minimum match of 25% of the total operating costs as well as a 20% match of the supportive services costs, or at a minimum, 20% of the total costs, to partially fund the Transitional Housing Program (THP), to enable the Department to provide for 244 THP beds with supportive services, which include temporary housing, employment training, job placement assistance, assistance in securing permanent housing, child care and related services to assist youth with making a successful transition from foster care to independent living.

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

"Foster youth are one of the populations considered to be at the highest risk for experiencing homelessness after they are emancipated from the child welfare system. Currently, over 1000 young adults leave the foster care system each year to transition into adulthood. I am concerned that without the proper support systems in place many of these youth will fall into homelessness which will lead to criminal activity, jail, or worse.

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“Any support system that we provide these young people begins with housing. The Department of Children and Family Services has in place a Transitional Housing Program (THP) for emancipated foster youth, however, the number of beds available clearly do not reflect the needs. I am also concerned about strategic placement of available housing in areas with large concentrations of foster youth. Currently, Los Angeles County is undergoing a review of all policies around transitioning or discharging people at highest risk of homelessness from the County’s systems of support, including jails, hospitals, and the foster care system. I would like to see the THP program undergo a thorough review through this process, to ensure we are doing all we can to help foster youth meet the challenges of young adulthood and make a solid start in their lives.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Approved the Director of Children and Family Services’ attached recommendation; and
2. Instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to work in concert with the Emancipation Program Partnership to develop enhancements to the Transitional Housing Program and include the recommendations for enhancing this program in the Chief Administrative Officer’s County discharge policy recommendation.

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#### Attachment

#### Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel